

## ATTENTION HUMBOLDT COUNTY HOMEOWNERS

You may have spoken to someone recently who came to your house to let you know about the tax credits available for home improvements. They may have come to you with coupons to a thousand or more dollars on their project. These deals may seem too good to be true, and we would like to take a moment to warn you to BE CAREFUL! Some of the companies offering you these deals are not all they appear to be. A number of them are not from our area and do not have valid business licenses to work here. One of the companies that has been canvassing our communities has a history of complaints and disciplinary action against them and is currently being considered for further disciplinary action by the Contractors State License Board according to the CSLB website.

If you are contacted by a company that is promoting their service, ask for their license number – if they are legitimately doing business, they will have the number with them. If they don't know it, be very cautious about doing business with them. When you DO get their number, visit the California Contractors State License Board website at <http://www.cslb.ca.gov> and click on the link to check their license. If the number doesn't come up, or comes up with complaints against it, you know the company has a history of problems. If the number comes up without complaints against it, you can expect to be dealing with a reliable company that is capable of doing the job right.

There are companies in our area who are offering great deals right now, and the truth is that there are great tax credits available for home improvements that increase energy efficiency. We urge you to talk to your local companies before you do business with someone whose offices are in another part of the state. When you spend money with a local business, that money stays in our community and keeps our residents working. Local companies employ local people and pay local taxes. They are here today, and will be here in the future. Your investment in your home builds equity for you *and* a future for Humboldt County residents.